

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 14094 020856Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9826
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NAIMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14094

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EG XA
SUBJECT: MINSTATE GHALI TO TAKE AFRICAN SWING

REFS: (A) CAIRO 13322, (B) CAIRO 11812

SUMMARY: MINSTATE GHALI TO MAKE JUNE 3-14 AGRICAN SWING,
IN CONNECTION WITH ATTENDANCE AT AFRO-ARAB SOLIDARITY
MEETING IN NIAMEY. AFTER NIAMEY, GHALI WILL
CONTINUE ON WEST AFRICA FOR CONSULTATIONS ON UPCOMING
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 14094 020856Z

OAU SUMMIT. EGYPTIANS REMAIN PESSIMISTIC CONCERNING
DEVELOPMENTS IN ZAIRE, BUT CONSIDER FORMATION OF MODERATE
AFRICAN PEACE KEEPING FORCE (FOR ZAIRE AND ELSEWHERE)
"PREMATURE". END SUMMARY.

1. MFA AFRICA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AMBASSADOR SIDQI TOLD
EMBOFFS MAY 30 THAT HE WILL ACCOMPANY MINSTATE FOREIGN

AFFAIRS DR. BOUTROS GHALI ON AFRICAN TOUR JUNE 3-14.
GHALI WILL TRAVEL FIRST TO KHARTOUM FOR CONSULTATIONS
WITH SUDANESE ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS IN GENERAL, THEN
WILL PROCEED TO NIAMEY FOR MEETING OF AFRO-ARAB SOLIDARITY
CONFERENCE, AFTER BRIEF TRANSIT STOP IN NDJAMENA.
EGYPTIANS HAVE ASKED CHADISANS FOR GHALI MEETING WITH
MALLOUM, DJIME AND/OR FONMIN KAMOUQUE, BUT AS YET
NO FIRM APPOINTMENTS SET.

2. AFTER NIAMEY CONFERENCE, WHICH WILL ALSO BE
ATTENDED BY EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO ARAB LEAGUE TAHSIN
BASHIR, GHALI AND SIDQI WILL PROCEED ON WEST AFRICAN
SWING INCLUDING (AT PRESENT) CAMEROON, GABON, NIGER
AND ZAIRE. GHALI PARTY WILL MAKE BRIEF STOP
IN CAE ON RETURN TO CONGRATULATE BOKASSA ON CORONATION
(REF B). GHALI MAY ALSO VISIT SENEGAL. SIDQI
NOTED GHALI'S TRIP, DURING WHICH EGYPTIANS WILL CON-
SULT ON OAU SUMMIT, IN FACT ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR
LATE 1977, BUT WAS CANCELLED AFTER SADAT TRIP TO
JERUSALEM. (COMMENT: IN VIEW OF CONCERN OVER
SOVIET/CUBAN DESIGNS IN AFRICA, IT LIKELY GOE RESUSCI-
TATING GHALI AFRICAN TRIP IN EFFORT RALLY MODERATE
SUPPORT FOR EGYPTIAN POSITIONS AT OAU SUMMIT.)

3. SIDQI REMAINS PESSIMISTIC CONCERNING ZAIRE
DEVELOPMENTS NOTING MOBUTU HAD FAILED HEED LESSONS
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 14094 020856Z

OF MARCH 1977.. SIDQI FULL OF PRAISE FOR FRENCH
MILITARY ACTION IN KOLWEZI, BUT THOUGHT THAT IT WAS
"PREMATURE" FOR MODERATE OR FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN
STATES TO ESTABLISH PERMANENT PEACE KEEPING FORCE.
GOE BELIEVES ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR SUCH AN
EVENTUAL PEACE KEEPING FORCE ALREADY EXISTS IN VARIOUS
REGIONAL WEST AFRICAN AGREEMENTS. SIDQI SAID
GOE IN FAVOR OF SOME ACTION BY AFRICAN MODERATES TO
SAVE AFRICA FROM COMMUNIST DESIGNS.

4. SIDQI STATED THAT 122 MM ARTILLERY SPARE PARTY
(REF A) HAD ALREADY BEEN DISPATCHED TO ZAIRE. SIDQI
SAID THAT "SENIOR OFFICIAL" WHO HAD TRAVELED TO ZAIRE
TO STUDY SITUATION (MAY 25 GUMHURIYYA) WAS IN FACT
MERELY ARTILLERY OFFICER CHARGED WITH ADVISING ZAIRIANS
ON PROPER USE OF 122 MM SPARES.

5. COMMENT: SIDQI COMMENTS SUGGEST THAT, WHILE
GOE WOULD LIKE TO SEE UNIFIED MODERATE AFRICAN
EFFORTS TO COUNTER PERCEIVED SOVIET THREATS MATER-
IALIZED, NO COHERENT GOE STRATEGY HAS YET EMERGED. HE
MADE IT CLEAR THAT CONSTRAINTS ON EGYPT PRECLUDE

ACTIVIST GOE ROLE IN SUCH PLACES AS ZAIRE. EGYPTIANS
WOULD PREFER THAT OTHER AFRICAN MODERATES TAKE LEAD.
AS DEPT. AWARE, HOWEVER, SIDQI, WHO TAKES CAUTIOUS
APPROACH TO GOE INVOLVEMENT IN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES,
HAS IN PLAST BEEN OVERRULED BY SADAT. MAATHEWS

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